

**ACUTE VOLUME EXPANSION ATTENUATES HYPERTHERMIA-INDUCED REDUCTIONS IN  
CEREBRAL PERFUSION DURING SIMULATED HEMORRHAGE**

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## ABSTRACT

Hyperthermia reduces the capacity to withstand a simulated hemorrhagic challenge, but volume loading preserves this capacity. This study tested the hypotheses that acute volume expansion during hyperthermia increases cerebral perfusion and attenuates reductions in cerebral perfusion during a simulated hemorrhagic challenge induced by lower body negative pressure (LBNP). Eight healthy young male subjects underwent a supine baseline period (pre-LBNP), followed by 15 and 30 mmHg LBNP while normothermic, hyperthermic (increased pulmonary artery blood temperature  $\sim 1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and following acute volume infusion while hyperthermic. Primary dependent variables were: mean middle cerebral artery blood velocity ( $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$ ) - serving as an index of cerebral perfusion, mean arterial pressure (MAP), and cardiac output (thermodilution). During baseline, hyperthermia reduced  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  ( $P=0.001$ ) by  $12 \pm 9\%$  relative to normothermia. Volume infusion while hyperthermic increased cardiac output by  $2.8 \pm 1.4$  L/min ( $P<0.001$ ), but did not alter  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  ( $P=0.99$ ) or MAP ( $P=0.39$ ), when compared to hyperthermia alone. Relative to hyperthermia, at 30 mmHg LBNP acute volume infusion attenuated reductions ( $P<0.001$ ) in cardiac output (by  $2.5 \pm 0.9$  L/min;  $P<0.001$ ), MAP (by  $5 \pm 6$  mmHg;  $P=0.004$ ), and  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  (by  $12 \pm 13\%$ ;  $P=0.002$ ). These data indicate that acute volume expansion does not reverse hyperthermia-induced reductions in cerebral perfusion pre-LBNP, but that it does attenuate reductions in cerebral perfusion during simulated hemorrhage in hyperthermic humans.

Abstract word count: 216

**Keywords:** Lower body negative pressure; heat stress; brain blood flow; volume infusion

## INTRODUCTION

In humans, the ability to maintain arterial pressure, and ultimately cerebral perfusion, during an orthostatic (e.g., by standing up or upright tilt) or a simulated hemorrhagic challenge (e.g., by lower body negative pressure; LBNP (4)) is compromised during hyperthermia (17, 19, 30). This hyperthermia-induced impairment involves numerous mechanisms including, insufficient increases in peripheral resistance (8, 14, 25), decreases in ventricular filling pressures (10, 32) - which occur subsequent to reductions in the central blood volume (9, 10) - impaired arterial baroreflex control of blood pressure (5), and reductions in cerebral perfusion (2, 21, 30).

Various countermeasures are effective in maintaining arterial pressure and cerebral perfusion during a simulated hemorrhagic challenge in heat stressed individuals, such as rapid skin cooling (31) and acute plasma volume expansion (17). The mechanism(s) by which acute volume expansion preserves the capability to maintain cardiovascular integrity during hyperthermia remains unknown. Volume loading may attenuate the LBNP-induced reduction in stroke volume and cardiac output such that arterial pressure and therefore, presumably, cerebral perfusion is preserved (3, 10). Alternatively, acute volume expansion in heat stressed individuals may, independent of changes in arterial pressure, augment cerebral perfusion secondary to an increase in cardiac output, and subsequent arterial baroreflex mediated changes in cerebral vascular tone (22, 23), as shown in normothermic individuals (24). However, the effect of acute volume loading on cerebral perfusion in heat stressed individuals, either at rest or during a subsequent simulated hemorrhage, remains unknown. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to test the hypotheses that acute plasma volume expansion while hyperthermic will: 1) reverse hyperthermia-induced reductions in cerebral perfusion, and 2) attenuate reductions in cerebral perfusion during a simulated hemorrhagic challenge (i.e., LBNP). The results were considered to illuminate the mechanisms by which acute volume infusion preserves the capacity to withstand a subsequent hemorrhagic challenge during hyperthermia, which is of importance for the treatment of hyperthermic, hemorrhagic individuals.

## METHODS

Eight healthy male volunteers participated in this study. The subject characteristics were (mean  $\pm$  SD) - Age:  $29 \pm 5$  y; Height:  $180 \pm 5$  cm; Weight:  $75 \pm 4$  kg; Body surface area:  $1.5 \pm 0.1$  m<sup>2</sup>. All subjects were non-smokers, not taking medications and were free of any known cardiovascular, metabolic, or neurological diseases. Each subject was fully informed of the experimental procedures and possible risks before giving informed written consent. This protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Copenhagen (H-KF-090/04) and was registered with the Danish data protection agency and ClinicalTrials.gov under the national library of medicine (NCT00714766). All procedures conformed to the standards set by the Declaration of Helsinki. Subjects arrived at the laboratory euhydrated (having ingested  $\sim 1.8$  L of fluid during the prior 24 h) and having refrained from strenuous exercise, alcohol and caffeine for a period of 24 h. These data were collected concurrently with those presented in a published manuscript, which tested a unique research hypothesis (3).

### *Instrumentation and measurements*

Mean skin temperature was measured from the weighted average of six thermocouples attached to the skin (27). Body temperature was controlled via a water-perfused tube lined suit (Med-Eng, Ottawa, ON, Canada), that covered the entire body except the head, hands, one forearm, and the feet. Heart rate was continually recorded from a five lead electrocardiogram. Mean arterial pressure (MAP) was measured via a catheter placed in the brachial artery of the non-dominant arm. Pulmonary artery blood temperature was measured via a flow-directed pulmonary arterial catheter (93A-831H-7.5F, Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Irvine, CA, USA) introduced through the basilica vein of the left arm and advanced to the pulmonary artery. Central venous pressure (CVP) was measured via an alternate port on the pulmonary arterial catheter. Vascular pressures were referenced to atmospheric pressure via uniflow pressure transducers (Baxter Healthcare Corporation) that were zeroed 5 cm below the sternal notch and connected to a pressure-monitoring system (Dialogue 2000, ICB-Danica, Copenhagen, Denmark). All catheters were flushed with isotonic saline at 3 ml/h. Arterial blood samples were analyzed for changes in arterial carbon dioxide tension ( $P_a\text{CO}_2$ ), hemoglobin, and thus hematocrit (Radiometer ABL700, Brønshøj, Denmark) and corrected to pulmonary artery blood temperature. Cardiac output was measured in triplicate via the thermodilution method (15). Mean middle cerebral artery blood velocity ( $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$ ) served as an index of cerebral perfusion and was measured by adjusting a 2 MHz Doppler probe (Multidop X, DWL, Sipplingen, Germany) over the temporal window (1, 29).

## Experimental protocol

Following instrumentation, subjects rested quietly in the supine position while normothermic water (34°C) perfused the suit. After normothermic baseline data collection, LBNP commenced at 15 mmHg, which was immediately followed by 30 mmHg. 30 mmHg LBNP was the highest level applied as it was expected that all subjects could tolerate this LBNP during hyperthermia for a period sufficient to obtain the desired data prior to symptoms of syncope. The duration of each LBNP stage for all thermal conditions was ~15 min, which was required to obtain the data reported in the companion paper (3). Following normothermic LBNP, the subjects underwent whole-body passive heat stress by perfusing 46-48°C water through the suit. This heat stress continued until pulmonary artery blood temperature increased ~1.0°C (typically after 30-45 min), after which the water temperature was slightly reduced to attenuate further increases in body temperature during the ensuing data collection periods. The subjects were not allowed to drink at any time during the experimental procedures. Hyperthermic baseline data were then obtained, which was followed by 15 and 30 mmHg LBNP. Following a brief recovery after the cessation of LBNP and while remaining heat stressed, 500 ml of ~38°C colloid solution (HES 130/0.4, Voluven, Fresenius Kabi, Sweden) followed by warm saline was rapidly infused. The total infused volume was ~12 ml/kg and typically administered in less than 10 min. Baseline data were collected after the completion of the infusion, which was then followed by 15 and 30 mmHg LBNP.

## Data analysis

Thermal, hemodynamic, and pressure data were sampled at 50 Hz via a data acquisition system (Biopac System, Santa Barbara, CA, USA). Data were reduced into 60 s averages during the baseline periods and following 5 min of each stage of LBNP. Stroke volume was calculated from cardiac output and heart rate, while systemic vascular resistance (SVR) was calculated as  $(MAP - CVP) / \text{cardiac output}$ . An index of cerebral vascular resistance (CVR) was calculated as the quotient of MAP and  $MCAv_{\text{mean}}$ . Percentage changes in plasma volume, occurring as a result of the volume infusion, were estimated from changes in hematocrit and hemoglobin (12). Data during LBNP are presented as absolute values and as a change ( $\Delta$ ) from pre-LBNP baseline for each respective condition.

## Statistical analysis

Data at baseline for normothermia, hyperthermia, hyperthermia + infusion were analyzed using one-way repeated measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) (*hypothesis one*), while data during LBNP during the hyperthermia and hyperthermia + infusion conditions were analyzed using a two-way repeated measures ANOVA (2 x 3; condition x LBNP) (*hypothesis two*). Data during the normothermic condition were not included in the analysis for *hypothesis two* given that the inclusion of this data was

167 not necessary to test this hypothesis. Where appropriate, *post hoc*, pair-wise, comparisons were made  
168 incorporating a Bonferroni adjustment. Data were analyzed using SigmaPlot (v.12, Systat Software  
169 Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) with *a priori* statistical significance set at  $P \leq 0.05$ . All data are reported as mean  
170  $\pm$  SD.  
171

## RESULTS

### *Normothermia, hyperthermia, and hyperthermia + volume infusion baselines (hypothesis one)*

Thermal and hemodynamic variables during normothermia, hyperthermia, and following the volume infusion baseline (pre-LBNP) periods are presented in Table 1. Relative to normothermia, hyperthermia was characterized by  $\sim 1.1$  and  $\sim 2.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  increases ( $P < 0.001$ ) in pulmonary artery blood and mean skin temperatures, respectively, which were maintained ( $P = 0.084$ ) during the infusion. The volume infusion increased plasma volume by  $18 \pm 5\%$ , and augmented ( $P < 0.001$ ) cardiac output, but did not affect ( $P = 0.999$ ) MAP. Notably,  $\text{PaCO}_2$  was well maintained ( $P = 0.351$ ) throughout these baseline periods.  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  and CVR at baseline are presented in Figure 1. Relative to normothermia,  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  was reduced ( $P = 0.001$ ) by  $12 \pm 9\%$  during hyperthermia and was unaffected ( $P = 0.394$ ) by volume infusion. CVR was similar ( $P = 0.471$ ) throughout all baseline periods.

### *Lower body negative pressure (hypothesis two)*

Pulmonary artery temperature was  $\sim 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  higher ( $P = 0.006$ ) throughout LBNP following the volume infusion ( $38.0 \pm 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), relative to during hyperthermia alone ( $37.8 \pm 0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  and CVR during LBNP are presented in Figure 2. CVR remained constant ( $P = 0.281$ ) as LBNP progressed, while  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  decreased ( $P < 0.001$ ) in both conditions. However, relative to hyperthermia, volume infusion attenuated the reduction in  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  during 15 ( $P = 0.049$ ) and 30 ( $P = 0.002$ ) mmHg LBNP. Hemodynamic variables during LBNP are presented in Figure 3. Cardiac output, stroke volume, MAP, and CVP all decreased ( $P < 0.001$ ) as LBNP progressed, while SVR increased ( $P < 0.001$ ). At both stages of LBNP, volume infusion augmented ( $P \leq 0.001$ ) cardiac output and stroke volume, while it attenuated ( $P = 0.004$ ) the reduction in MAP at 30 mmHg LBNP. During LBNP,  $\text{PaCO}_2$  was similar ( $P = 0.559$ ) between hyperthermia ( $33 \pm 5$  mmHg) and volume infusion ( $35 \pm 5$  mmHg) conditions.

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to test the hypotheses that acute plasma volume expansion during hyperthermia elevates cerebral perfusion at rest and attenuates reductions in cerebral perfusion during a subsequent simulated hemorrhagic challenge. The novel findings of this study are that acute volume expansion: a) does not reverse hyperthermia-induced reductions in cerebral perfusion at rest, but that b) it attenuates reductions in cerebral perfusion during a subsequent simulated hemorrhage while hyperthermic. That is, an increase in pulmonary artery blood temperature of  $\sim 1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Table 1) reduced  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  by  $\sim 12\%$  (Fig. 1), but acute volume infusion sufficient to increase cardiac output by almost 3 L/min (Table 1) did not restore  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  towards normothermic levels (Fig. 1). However, acute volume infusion during hyperthermia did attenuate LBNP-induced reductions in  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  (Fig. 2). This was likely a function of the volume infusion's augmentation of cardiac output and stroke volume prior to LBNP (Fig. 3), which better maintained MAP at a given level of LBNP (Fig. 3), thereby forestalling LBNP-induced reductions in  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  (Fig. 2). These data indicate that cardiac output is not capable of directly (i.e., independent of arterial pressure) modulating cerebral blood flow during hyperthermia. However, the data do support that the beneficial effects of acute volume loading prior to a hyperthermic simulated hemorrhage are, at least partially, mediated via the preservation of arterial pressure and by extension, the maintenance of cerebral perfusion.

### *Acute volume expansion and cerebral perfusion during hyperthermia*

During normothermia, experimentally-induced fluctuations in cardiac output directly modulate brain blood flow in humans (24). Presumably, this effect is mediated via the arterial baroreflex and subsequent changes in cerebral vascular tone occurring secondary to changes in sympathetic nerve activity (22, 23). Accordingly, we hypothesized that the same phenomenon would occur during hyperthermia, such that the augmentation of cardiac output would (at least partially) restore hyperthermia-induced reductions in cerebral perfusion. However, this was not the case (Fig. 1). There are two potential reasons for this observation.

First, acute volume expansion during hyperthermia restores central blood volume to normothermic levels (9) and augments an already elevated skin blood flow (7). Thus, increases in blood flow as a consequence of volume infusion in those vascular beds with a low vascular resistance (e.g., the cutaneous vasculature) appear likely, whereas blood flow in vascular beds with a higher vascular resistance (e.g., the cerebral vasculature) would remain constant. As evidence for this hypothesis, in the present study systemic vascular resistance further decreased during volume infusion (Table 1), while  $\text{MCAv}_{\text{mean}}$  and CVR were unchanged (Fig. 1).

Second, the effect of increasing cardiac output on the cerebral vasculature during normothermia may be mediated by the arterial baroreflex and subsequent changes in sympathetic nerve activity (22,



23). Hyperthermia impairs the responsiveness of some aspects of the baroreflex (5) and also shifts the baroreflex operating point (5, 11) in order to accommodate hyperthermia-induced hemodynamic changes (6). Thus, the sensitivity of the cerebral vasculature to modify blood flow to a given change in cardiac output may be reduced during hyperthermia. However, this remains speculative as there is no direct evidence in support of such an arrangement. It is also notable that this hypothesis requires that the sympathetic nervous system innervate cerebral vessels and modify cerebral blood flow in humans, which remains debated (28).

#### *Acute volume expansion and cerebral perfusion during hyperthermic LBNP*

The ability to withstand a hemorrhagic challenge is reduced during hyperthermia, while acute volume expansion reverses this intolerance (17). The mechanisms underlying this observation are not currently known. We hypothesized that, relative to hyperthermia alone, acute volume expansion during hyperthermia would attenuate reductions in cerebral perfusion at a given level of LBNP. The present data support this hypothesis. Specifically, following volume infusion,  $MCAv_{mean}$  during LBNP was higher than during hyperthermia alone (Fig. 2). These data indicate that during simulated hemorrhage cerebral perfusion is better maintained during hyperthermia following volume expansion. From the testing of our first hypothesis, the mechanism for this observation is not via the direct influence of acute volume loading, and subsequent increases in cardiac output, on cerebral perfusion prior the simulated hemorrhagic challenge. Rather, these data support the proposal (see: 3, 10) that volume expansion results in a higher cardiac output and stroke volume at a given level of LBNP (Fig. 3), which better maintains arterial pressure (Fig. 3) and in turn maintains cerebral perfusion as LBNP progressed (Fig. 2). Thus, these data suggest that the preservation of simulated hemorrhagic tolerance following volume infusion during hyperthermia is, at least partially, mediated via attenuations in LBNP-induced reductions in arterial pressure and cerebral perfusion.

#### *Methodological considerations*

Given the invasive nature of this study, it was not feasible to randomize the three experimental conditions as this would have required three separate laboratory visits and thus, arterial and right heart catheterization on three occasions. Accordingly, pulmonary artery blood temperature was slightly higher ( $\sim 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) during LBNP with volume infusion relative to LBNP during hyperthermia alone. Given these slight temperature differences and that cerebral perfusion progressively decreases as internal body temperature increases - albeit at larger increments than  $0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  (13) - these findings suggest that we likely underestimated the magnitude of the beneficial effect of acute volume expansion on changes in cerebral perfusion during LBNP.

266           Given that these data were collected concurrently with another study (3), coupled with the  
267           aforementioned challenges resulting in it not being feasible to perform the experimental sessions on  
268           three separate days, in the present study we did not measure LBNP tolerance. Thus, these data have  
269           been carefully interpreted and the conclusions drawn only pertain to situations involving the  
270           administered levels of LBNP. Therefore, cerebral vascular responses during hyperthermia following  
271           acute volume expansion at the point of LBNP intolerance remain unknown. Nevertheless, the  
272           presented data provide insights into possible mechanisms underlying the beneficial effects of acute  
273           volume expansion on LBNP tolerance during hyperthermia.

274           It is also worth noting that in the present study subjects were exposed to moderate levels of  
275           LBNP three times within a relatively short time period (~90 min). It remains unknown whether there are  
276           any physiological effects of repeated moderate LBNP over this period, and if so whether those effects  
277           would be sufficient to influence the profound changes observed during heat stress and heat stress plus  
278           volume infusion. That said, some changes do occur given that adaptation to daily LBNP exposures has  
279           been observed in as little as five consecutive days (18). Whether this influenced the conclusions drawn  
280           presently remains uncertain.

281           We utilized transcranial Doppler to quantify  $MCAv_{mean}$ , which served as an index of cerebral  
282           perfusion given that this artery supplies ~80% of the blood flow received by each cerebral hemisphere  
283           (20). However, it must be acknowledged that if the diameter of the insonated artery changes, then  
284           changes in blood velocity does not always reflect proportional changes in blood flow. Yet, the diameter  
285           of the middle cerebral artery is unaffected by moderate carbon dioxide and blood pressure  
286           perturbations (16, 26). Even still, the effect of hyperthermia on middle cerebral artery diameter remains  
287           uncertain.

288

## 289 *Conclusions*

290           The present study demonstrates that acute volume expansion does not reverse hyperthermia-  
291           induced reductions in cerebral perfusion at rest, but that it does attenuate the reduction in cerebral  
292           perfusion during a subsequent simulated hemorrhage while hyperthermic. Thus, cardiac output does  
293           not appear to directly (i.e., independent of arterial pressure) modulate cerebral blood flow during  
294           hyperthermia. However, acute volume loading prior to a simulated hemorrhagic event while  
295           hyperthermic attenuates the LBNP-induced reductions in arterial pressure and, thereby better maintains  
296           cerebral perfusion.

297

## 298 *Perspectives*

299           Testing of these hypotheses has furthered the understanding of the mechanisms by which acute  
300           volume infusion preserves the capacity to withstand a subsequent hemorrhagic challenge during

301 hyperthermia. The findings presented have implications for individuals at risk of a hemorrhagic injury  
302 under heat stress conditions (e.g., soldiers, firefighters, miners, etc.). The data suggest that plasma  
303 volume loading in a hyperthermic individual prior to a hemorrhagic injury will assist in the maintenance  
304 of cerebral perfusion through stabilizing arterial pressure, as opposed to a direct effect of an increase in  
305 cardiac output, independent of arterial pressure, as has been found in normothermic individuals (24).  
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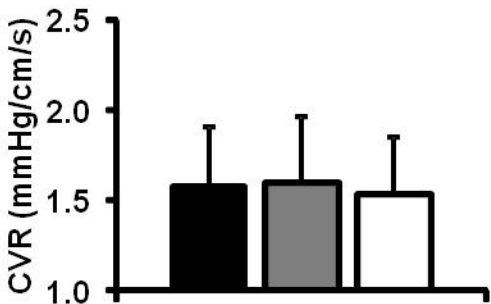
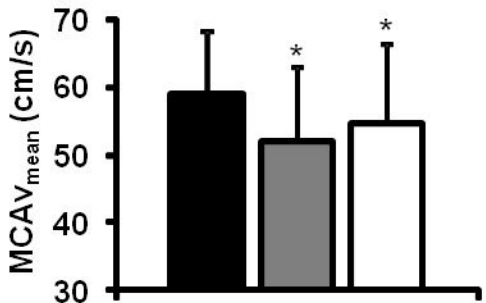
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## FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1: Indices of cerebral perfusion and cerebral vascular resistance during Normothermia, Hyperthermia, and during hyperthermia following acute volume infusion (Hyperthermia + Infusion) (mean  $\pm$  SD).  $MCAv_{mean}$ , mean middle cerebral artery blood velocity; CVR, cerebral vascular resistance; \*, indicates significantly different from Normothermia ( $P \leq 0.03$ ).

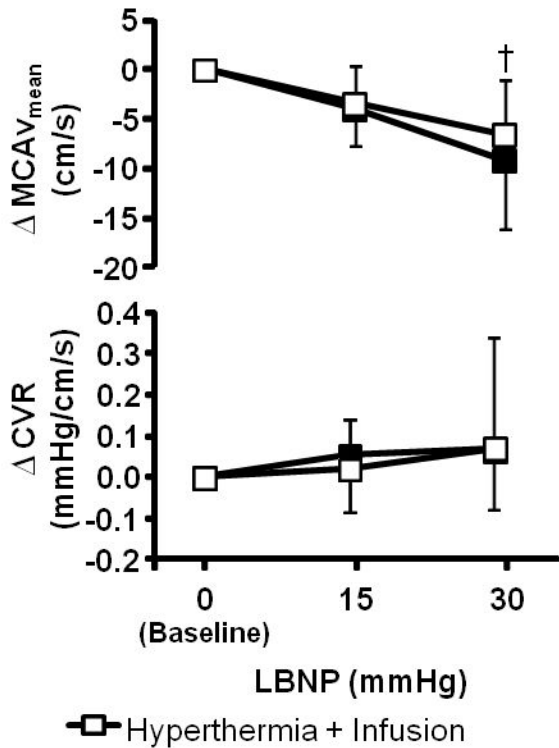
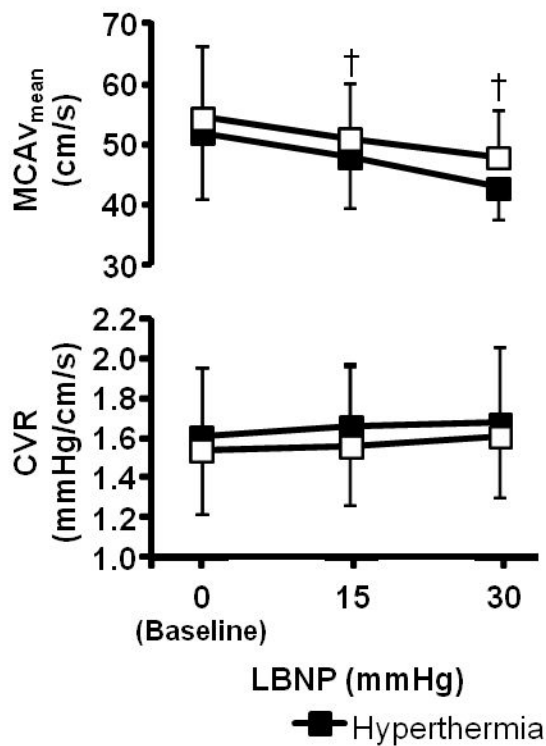
Figure 2: Indices of cerebral perfusion and cerebral vascular resistance at baseline and during 15 and 30 mmHg lower body negative pressure (LBNP) during Hyperthermia and hyperthermia following an acute volume infusion (Hyperthermia + Infusion) (mean  $\pm$  SD).  $MCAv_{mean}$ , mean middle cerebral artery blood velocity; CVR, cerebral vascular resistance;  $\Delta$ , indicates change from pre-LBNP baseline for each condition; †, indicates significantly different from Hyperthermia ( $P < 0.05$ ).

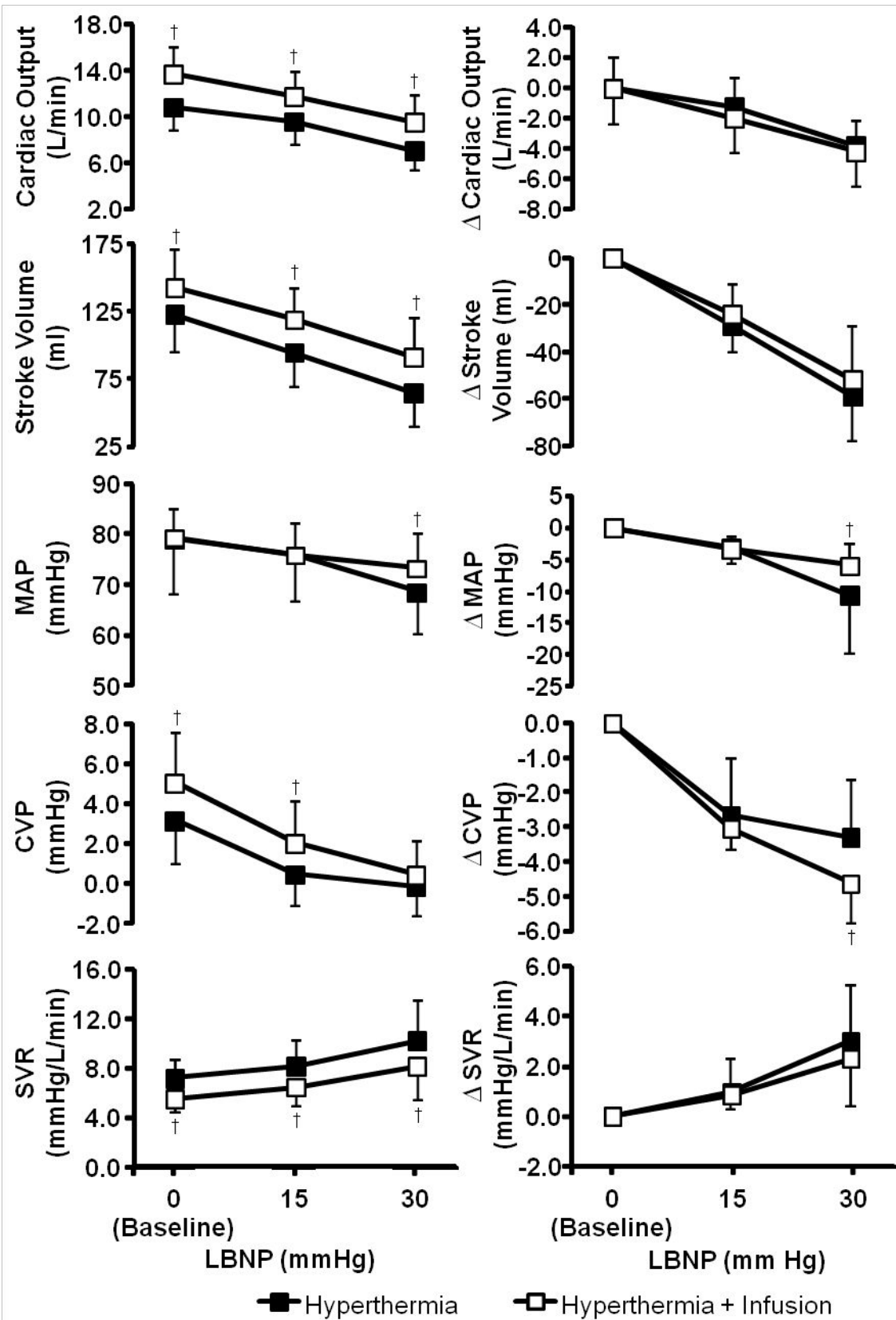
Figure 3: Hemodynamic variables at baseline and during 15 and 30 mmHg lower body negative pressure (LBNP) during Hyperthermia and hyperthermia following an acute volume infusion (Hyperthermia + Infusion) (mean  $\pm$  SD). MAP, mean arterial pressure; CVP: central venous pressure; SVR, systemic vascular resistance;  $\Delta$ , indicates change from pre-LBNP baseline for each condition; †, indicates significantly different from Hyperthermia ( $P \leq 0.011$ ).



- Normothermia
- Hyperthermia
- Hyperthermia + Infusion







**Table 1: Baseline thermal and hemodynamic data (mean  $\pm$  SD)**

|   | Normothermia   | Hyperthermia     | Hyperthermia<br>+ Infusion |
|---|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Pulmonary artery blood temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) | 36.6 $\pm$ 0.2 | 37.7 $\pm$ 0.4 * | 37.9 $\pm$ 0.3 *           |
| Mean skin temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )              | 34.9 $\pm$ 0.2 | 37.7 $\pm$ 0.4 * | 37.7 $\pm$ 0.4 *           |
| Cardiac output (L/min)                                    | 6.4 $\pm$ 0.8  | 10.9 $\pm$ 2.0 * | 13.8 $\pm$ 2.4 *†          |
| Heart rate (bpm)  | 61 $\pm$ 11    | 90 $\pm$ 14 *    | 98 $\pm$ 11 *†             |
| Stroke volume (ml)  | 108 $\pm$ 19   | 123 $\pm$ 28     | 143 $\pm$ 29 *             |
| MAP (mmHg)  | 89 $\pm$ 8     | 79 $\pm$ 7 *     | 79 $\pm$ 6 *               |
| CVP (mmHg)  | 5.8 $\pm$ 1.5  | 3.2 $\pm$ 2.1 *  | 5.1 $\pm$ 2.5 †            |
| SVR (mmHg/L/min)  | 13.2 $\pm$ 2.3 | 7.2 $\pm$ 1.5 *  | 5.5 $\pm$ 1.0 *†           |
| P <sub>a</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)                     | 39 $\pm$ 2     | 39 $\pm$ 4       | 37 $\pm$ 6                 |

MAP, mean arterial blood pressure; CVP, central venous pressure; SVR, systemic vascular resistance; P<sub>a</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>, arterial carbon dioxide tension; \* indicates significantly different than normothermia ( $P \leq 0.01$ ); † indicates significantly different than hyperthermia ( $P < 0.05$ ).